

UCLA
Abnormal Psychology (Psychology 127, Section 1) Fall 2009

Dr. Cara Gardenswartz
Clinical Psychologist
Certified Group Psychotherapist

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 9/24-12/4

Location: Young CS 50

Class Web Site: <http://courses.psych.ucla.edu>

Faculty: **Dr. Cara Gardenswartz**
Email: Cara@CaraGardenswartz.com
Office Hour: **Thursday, 10:45-11:45 pm: Franz 5461**

Teaching Assistant: **Lisa Benson**
Email: Lbenson1@ucla.edu
Office Hours: **Monday 3-4pm: Franz A235D**
Discussion Section: **Wed 11am-12pm**

Teaching Assistant: **Becky Fraynt**
Email: Bfraynt@ucla.edu
Office Hours: **Tuesdays 8-9am: Franz**
Discussion Section: **Tuesdays 11am-12pm**

Course Description and Philosophy:

Students in this course will study the different ways that psychologists explain psychopathology or abnormal behavior. Current theoretical models are examined along with research on the various forms of psychopathology. The different therapy approaches used to treat these disorders are also discussed. The course is designed for you to learn by (1) attending lecture regularly and reviewing your notes, (2) reading and studying the textbook, and (3) taking advantage of opportunities to ask questions. Three weekly office hours are listed above. Do not hesitate to see either Dr. Gardenswartz or the TA's during those scheduled hours. Lisa and Becky will also offer discussion sections each week to review information not covered in the class but that is in the assigned chapters. We want to help answer any questions that arise. We ask that you not use email for general course-related information. Please post those questions on the discussion board that is part of the course web page. Email should only be used when the matter to be discussed is of a personal nature and it is not possible to attend one of the office hours.

Most students should plan on devoting about 10-15 hours each week to this course. We strongly advise students to keep up with the assigned readings according to the schedule on the syllabus. The lectures will be much more meaningful and enjoyable if you have done the reading in advance. The textbook provides the basic overview; the lectures are designed to highlight certain topics and to provide supplemental material.

Throughout the course, you will collaborate with nearby students: you will brainstorm, debate, and come up with solutions together. Please come to class with index cards to write down notes during your group experiences. You will also answer survey questions on index cards (anonymously) and hand them into the Teaching Assistants at the end of most lectures.

Readings:

Required - All required reading is from Oltmanns, T. F. and Emery, R.E. (2010). *Abnormal Psychology* (6th Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Optional - You may also wish to use the Study Guide that accompanies the text. It provides outlines, learning objectives, and sample test items for each chapter.

Class Website:

Please check the course webpage frequently. Grades and other important announcements will be posted there. Whenever possible, the overheads will be posted on the class website in advance to make note taking easier.

Grading:

Grades will be based on scores obtained three multiple-choice examinations. As indicated below, scores on the three exams sum to 140 points; the final grading curve will be based on the total number of points accumulated, with a possible maximum of 140 points. There are no “extra credit” projects in this class.

Every exam will cover lectures, videotapes, and assigned reading. Lecture material will be emphasized. Accordingly, if you miss a class you should obtain notes from a peer. The final will be cumulative, covering all lectures, videotapes, and assigned reading during the course. You are responsible for material not covered in the lecture in assigned chapters.

Exam #1	-	40 points (40 test items)	- Date:	Oct 15
Exam #2	-	40 points (40 test items)	- Date:	Nov 10
Exam #3	-	60 points (60 test items)	- Date:	Dec 3
Total	=	140 possible points		

Course grades will be assigned using a curve, based on the total points from the four exams. The distribution of grades in the class will be as follows: 20% A's, 30% B's, 40% C's, 6% D's, and 4% F's. This curve will **only** be used if it benefits the class. If students' grades are higher using a conventional straight scale (e.g., 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B) then the curve will be discarded and a straight scale used instead. Final course grades will be modified by plusses and minuses.

Reviewing Exams:

Students who would like to review their responses to the first two exams should attend one of the posted TA or instructor office hours. Each of the first two exams will be available for review during office hours up until the date of the next exam. If you have a complaint regarding a question on the exam, please write a paragraph describing the complaint and give it to one of the TA's. Exam 3 can be reviewed

during office hours/discussion section hours the week of December 7th.

Policy Regarding Missed Exams:

There will be no make-up examinations in this course. If you miss an examination, you will receive a score of zero on that exam. Exceptions to this policy will only be considered in the event of a serious, unavoidable emergency (e.g. a medical emergency). If you miss an exam you must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the exam by telephone, and written proof of the serious emergency (e.g., letter from doctor; copy of police accident report) will be required for an excuse ultimately to be considered. If the instructor approves a reason for missing a midterm, the other midterm and final exam will be weighted differently. If the instructor approves a reason for missing the final exam, a final exam will be administered as soon as the serious emergency situation is sufficiently resolved.

Incompletes:

A grade of Incomplete ("I") will be assigned only when a student's work is of passing quality but is incomplete for a clearly legitimate reason and only if one component needs to be finished (i.e., one exam). The work must be made up during the next quarter or the grade will lapse to an F, or NP as appropriate.

Dropping:

Because this is an impacted course, the last week to drop the class is week 2.

Pass-No Pass Grades:

Students who choose to take the course P/NP will receive a P (pass) if they earn point totals worth a C or better, but will receive an NP (no pass) if they earn point totals worth a C- or less.

According to the Schedule of Classes, the last week for undergraduates to change their grading basis to Pass-No Pass is week 6.

Change of Grades:

The College of Letters and Science specifies that, once assigned, a final grade for the course can only be changed in cases of clerical or procedural errors. Re-examination is not permitted.

Counseling and Psychology Services (CAPS):

It is not uncommon for students enrolled in this course to find that a topic covered in class has some personal relevance, either in their own lives or in the lives of people close to them. You should know that all students who have the Student Health Insurance Program at UCLA are eligible for confidential consultations at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): www.caps.ucla.edu

Students can call to make an appointment at (310) 825-0768

CAPS professionals are available for immediate in-person assessment and intervention during normal working hours, weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Crisis counselors are available for phone consultation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling the CAPS main phone line at 310-825-0768.

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<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>TEXT</u>
1	Sept 24 (Th)	Introduction: Definition of Abnormal Behavior	Ch 1
	Sept 29 (Tu)	Classification of Abnormal Behavior	Ch 4
2	Oct 1 (Th)	Assessment of Abnormal Behavior	Ch 4
	Oct 6 (Tu)	Mood Disorders	Ch 5
3	Oct 8 (Th)	Theory and Treatment of Mental Disorders	Ch 2, 3
	Oct 13 (Tu)	Biological Causes/Treatment of Mental Illness: Focus on Depression (Guest Lecturer)	Ch 2, 3, 5
4	Oct 15 (Th)	Exam 1	
	Oct 20 (Tu)	Anxiety Disorders	Ch 6
5	Oct 22 (Th)	Anxiety Disorders (cont)	Ch 6
	Oct 27 (Tu)	Schizophrenia (Guest Lecturer)	Ch 13
6	Oct 29 (Th)	Schizophrenia	Ch 13
	Nov 3 (Tu)	Substance Use Disorders	Ch 11
7	Nov 5 (Th)	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorder	Ch 12
	Nov 10 (Tu)	Exam 2 <i>Salute the Veterans (Nov 11) and you are off! Perfect timing after the exam to relax.</i>	
8	Nov 12 (Th)	Childhood Disorders	Ch 16
	Nov 17 (Tu)	Acute/Post-traumatic Stress Disorders, Dissociative Disorders	Ch 7
9	Nov 19 (Th)	Personality Disorders	Ch 9
	Nov 24 (Tu)	Eating Disorders <i>Happy Thanksgiving ☺</i>	Ch 10
10	Dec 1 (Tu)	Review/ Catch Up <i>Careers in Psychology (just for you! – not on exam)</i>	
	Dec 3 (Th)	Final Exam <i>Enjoy your break- It's Well Deserved!</i>	